



Gilbert the Gold-Plated Nothing



31 4 5

Chapter 1 by Sarah Matisse-Damon

Is there ever a day in your life where you feel, happy, sad, or maybe excited? I have never felt that. On my world, I am a weirdo. Everyone else smiles, laughs, and feels. I can do all those, too. Just, I don't FEEL anything. My friend tells me a joke. The reflex to laugh comes. I laugh. I don't think the joke is funny. I just laugh. I've tried explaining this to my family. They don't understand. I doubt you would either. One of the major downsides of this, is I can't feel love. I have never loved a girl in my life. I feel affection towards my family, but I don't want to pro-create with anyone. The one emotion I can feel, is boredom. Along with a few others. When I do feel bored, I go with my dad to the big telescope and study this planet he found a little while ago. The planet he found is an exact replica of ours. But, the inhabitants have polluted their earth. My dad's predictions are that in 50 years, cancer will be the most common disease on their planet. The amount of carbon dioxide on their planet is huge. The telescope shows that almost one-eighth of their atmosphere is cO2. My dad has named the planet Eathr. (Pronounced Ee-Ay-Ther) He is now pretty famous for it, too. After I go with my dad, I take the tier home. A tier is a floating flat circle thing. It is programmed to go to our house, and we can enter coordinates too. It floats off Yemen's (our planets) magnetic field. One day, when I got home, my brother had knocked down my telescope, and shattered it. I was so mad. I almost strangled him. Mom had to calm me down.

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Chapter 2 by Eloise

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It was incredible. After I came back, I had felt anger. ANGER. I never felt anger. I felt boredom. I felt annoyance, along with hatred (including hating

myself), grumpiness, and loneliness.

But I never felt anger.

What was happening to me?

Chapter 3 by Eloise



Emotion... ooooooh... it made me feel queasy. I had never felt it before. It was overwhelming.

Then Sid (my brother, the same one who broke the telescope) rollerskated into the room, despite Mom's strict "no skates in the house" rule, and crashed into the floor lamp. Suddenly, I cracked up. And then I gasped. For I didn't need to remind myself to laugh.

I just LAUGHED. Period. Naturally. Without having to consciously tell myself to laugh.

There it was again. Emotion.

Something was going on.

Write a draft for chapter 4 of 8

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